**Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Administrator Report Summary**

**March 26, 2021**

**Safety and Crime Reduction Annual Report**

I am preparing a draft of the Safety and Crime Reduction Annual Report to be presented to the Finance Committee, Community Services, Neighborhoods, and Public Health and Safety Committee. Per Section 78.106 (presentation of goals, programs and measurables), the Commission was required to have the Annual Report ready to present March 1, 2021. However, I requested a 45-day extension which was approved. The extended Annual Report due date is April 15, 2021. The Annual Report will include short- and long-term goals, program recommendations as well as the Commission’s plan to achieve identifiable measurables. Here are a few possible suggestions:

* Immediate Goals
  + Engage community organizations
  + Establish program measures
  + Determine outcome/results of programs
  + Make recommendation to City Council
* Short-term Goals
  + Engage community organizations
  + Find Community Ambassador/Community Champion
  + Train him/her to empower community
  + Include Commissioners to build relationships community
  + Increase access to available resources for jobs, education, mental health counseling etc.
  + Enhance/build youth mentoring programs
  + Make recommendations to City Council
* Long-term Goals – Community Wide Toolkit
  + Organizations collaborating to increase safety and reduce crime
  + Employment opportunities
  + Mentorship programs
  + Family and Community Engagement
  + Create sustainable neighborhood change
  + Make recommendations to City Council

**Community Engagement**

To reduce crime in the community, the Commission continues to assist organizations with identifying ways to empower the community regarding the *Justina Pilot*. A community zoom meeting was held Thursday, March 25th at 7:00pm to update and receive feedback from the community about the pilot. Also, during the meeting, an update was provided regarding apartment managers helping to encourage residents to assist their communities in helping to reduce crime, as well as take back ownership of their community. A grass root community leader has been identified to help organize and build trust in the community between neighbors, businesses, organization, and police officers. A community meeting was scheduled last month, however, the event had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather.

**Mentoring**

The work of the Commission continues to be moved forward through the KHA subcommittee meeting with KHA to strategize effective funding allotments for mentoring programs. After meeting with KHA for over a month, the Administrator received KHA’s requested funding recommendations (by Chairman Sloan) for the Commission. The requested information for the following areas (peer-to-peer mentoring for teens, full-service school support, efficacy study of current mentoring programs, mentoring for teens transitioning out of live-in facilities, career and college education for youth touched by the juvenile system, as well as assistance with current trauma response efforts) were to include:

* Return on investments to quantify how funds are currently used
* Meeting objectives to reduce crime
* Established measures for success to demonstrate continuous service and/or expansion

Commissioner Sloan will provide a brief update to the full Commission regarding the recommendations. A copy of the recommendations will be provided for all Commissioners.

**Mental Health**

JSO Mental Health Calls for Service has increased by 570 calls compared to 2019. Mental health calls are responded to by priority and managed accordingly. The stats below details how many calls were received in 2019 versus 2020. These numbers may be able to guide the Commission in making a recommendation for funding in communities most impacted by violent crime directly effecting and creating mental health challenges. A follow up will be provided regarding if these calls are being received from communities most impacted by violent crime.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Calls by Year** | **Total** |
| 2019 | 7,815 |
| 2020 | 8,385 |
| **Total Calls** | **16, 200** |

In addition, Angela Spears (Angela Spears Communication) and Sheryl Johnson (Hearts 4 Minds, Inc) will be presenting today regarding Mental Health Awareness.

**Program Inventory**

I am reviewing the efficacy of community programs that contribute to safety and crime reduction in the community. Gathering and providing this data for the Commission will help to filter recommendations regarding community leverage for funding, resources, providing more robust services in underserved communities, as well as scaling up successful programs to continue to do great work in providing safety and reducing crime in communities. I have also inquired about receiving a list of the City funded organizations that are currently working in the areas of safety and crime reduction. I anticipate having a program inventory list for the Commissioner May meeting.

**Education/Youth Development/Teen Violence**

The Safety and Crime Reduction Administrator continues to participate in the JSO Gang Unit Notifications along with the JSO Program Manager, and the Director of Northwest Behavioral Health Services. The responses to the Customs Notifications have been enlightening. Individuals involved in crime, just released from prison and/or on a path to criminal activity are responding to program resources and opportunities. In fact, while riding along, several individuals called Garland Scott (JSO Program Manager) within minutes of driving away from several homes seeking help to change their lives. The JSO Program Manager, as well as the JSO Gang Unit continues to believe that if they can reach one person, it is one more life saved, and changed for the betterment of all those involved, thus reducing crime in the surrounding communities.

**Administrator Meetings/Trainings**

In addition, over the last month, I have attended meetings with City Council, JSO, NSO, SAO, Sherriff Watch, VAAC Council, and the 4th Judicial Circuit Advisory Board. I have also attended the Northwest Behavioral Health Community Wellness Fair and Eviction Workshop at the Calloway Cove Apartments (formerly Washington Heights), as well as the Jacksonville City Council Safer Together Series Mental Health Community Workshop.